COMPLETE LISTING OF THE CLAIMS

Claims 1-34 (canceled)

Claim 35 (currently amended): A server apparatus communicably connected to a plurality of client apparatuses through a communication network, for performing a music composing work according to ~~data~~ information input at the plurality of the client apparatuses to thereby create a file of music data under collaboration of a plurality of users of the plurality of client apparatuses with collecting ideas of the plurality of the users, the server apparatus comprising:

a setting section that sets parentage among the plurality of the client apparatuses such that one of the client apparatuses becomes a parent client apparatus and other client apparatus becomes a child client apparatus, the parent client apparatus having a right to enable the server apparatus to execute a specific process associated with the music composing work, the child client apparatus having no right to enable the server apparatus to execute the specific process associated with the music composing work;

a data storage section that stores music data of a text format under the music composing work;

an information transmitting section that transmits display information directly to each of the client apparatuses such that each client apparatus displays a composing screen and a chat screen according to the directly transmitted display information, the composing screen being provided for displaying a music score based on information associated with the music composing work and that is input by the user of the client apparatus, and the chat screen being provided for displaying messages input from the client apparatuses for chatting in association with the music composing work;

a data receiving section that directly receives from each client apparatus composing data, which is generated by the client apparatus based on ~~data~~ the information associated with the music composing work and input to the composing screen displayed according to the display information, and which represents either of a partial composing content or partial editing content of the music data;

a composing and editing section that performs the music composing work including input and edition of the music data according to the composing data directly received from each client apparatus to thereby update the music data stored in the data storage section; and

a music data transmitting section that responds to an updating request from the client apparatus for directly transmitting the updated music data stored in the data storage section as display information to the client apparatus such that the client apparatus can display the updated music data of a MIDI format on the composing screen, wherein the updated music data is converted from the text format to the MIDI format at either the server apparatus or the client apparatus.

Claim 36 (previously presented): The server apparatus according to claim 35, further including a second music data transmitting section that responds to a data save request from the client apparatus for converting the music data stored in the data storage section from the text format which is editable to the MIDI format which is performable, and directly transmitting the music data the MIDI format to the client apparatus.

Claim 37 (currently amended): The server apparatus according to claim 35, ~~wherein the~~ ~~information transmitting section further directly transmits chat screen information to the respective~~ ~~client apparatuses such that each client apparatus can display a chat screen for chatting with other~~ ~~client apparatuses, the server apparatus~~ further comprising:

a registering section that registers conversation data;

a conversation data update section that directly receives from the client apparatus the conversation data which is generated according to ~~data~~ the message input to the chat screen ~~which is~~ ~~displayed based on the chat screen information,~~ and that updates the conversation data registered in the registering section each time the conversation data is received; and

a conversation data transmitting section that responds to a chat update request from the client apparatus for directly transmitting the updated conversation data registered in the registering section.

Claim 38 (currently amended): A machine readable medium for use in a server apparatus which has a processor and a data storage for storing music data of a text format under a music composing process, and which communicably connects to a plurality of client apparatuses through a communication network, the medium containing program instructions executable by the processor for causing the server apparatus to perform the music composing work according to ~~data~~ information input at the plurality of the client apparatuses to thereby create a file of music data under collaboration of a plurality of users of the plurality of client apparatuses with collecting ideas of the plurality of the users, wherein the music composing process comprising:

setting parentage among the plurality of the client apparatuses such that one of the client apparatuses becomes a parent client apparatus and other client apparatus becomes a child client apparatus, the parent client apparatus having a right to enable the server apparatus to execute a specific process associated with the music composing work, the child client apparatus having no right to enable the server apparatus to execute the specific process associated with the music composing work;

directly transmitting display information to each of the client apparatuses such that each client apparatus displays a composing screen and a chat screen according to the directly transmitted display information, the composing screen being provided for displaying a music score based on information associated with the music composing work and that is input by the user of the client apparatus, and the chat screen being provided for displaying messages input from the client apparatuses for chatting in association with the music composing work;

directly receiving from each client apparatus composing data, which is generated by the client apparatus based on ~~data~~ the information associated with the music composing work and input

to the composing screen displayed according to the display information, and which represents either of a partial composing content or partial editing content of the music data;

performing addition and alteration of the music data stored in the data storage according to the composing data directly received from each client apparatus to thereby update the music data stored in the data storage; and

responding to an update request from the client apparatus for directly transmitting the updated music data stored in the data storage as display information to the client apparatus such that the client apparatus can display the updated music data of a MIDI format on the composing screen, wherein the updated music data is converted from the text format to the MIDI format at either the server apparatus or the client apparatus.

Claim 39 (currently amended): A client apparatus in a music data composing system which is comprised of a plurality of client apparatuses and a server apparatus communicably connected to the client apparatus through a communication network for performing a music composing work based on ~~data~~ information input at the respective client apparatuses to thereby create a file of music data under collaboration of a plurality of users of the client apparatuses with collecting ideas of the plurality of the users, the client apparatus comprising:

an operation section that inputs information and data in response to an operation of a user;

a screen display section that directly receives display information from the server apparatus and displays a composing screen and a chat screen according to the directly received display information, the composing screen being provided for displaying a music score based on information associated with the music composing work and that is input by the user of the client apparatus, and the chat screen being provided for displaying messages input from the client apparatuses for chatting in association with the music composing work;

a data generating section that generates composing data representing either of a partial composing content or partial editing content of the music data according to ~~data~~ the information associated with the music composing work and input to the composing screen by means of the operation section;

a data transmitting section that directly transmits the generated composing data to the server apparatus such that the server apparatus updates the music data of a text format according to the composing data;

an update request transmitting section that directly transmits an update request to the server apparatus in response to an input of an update instruction by the operation section;

a data receiving section that directly receives the updated music data which is directly transmitted from the server apparatus in response to the update request; and

a display control section that presents the updated music data of a MIDI format on the composing screen which is displayed by the screen display section, wherein the updated music data is converted from the text format to the MIDI format at either the server apparatus or the client apparatus,

wherein the parentage is set among the plurality of the client apparatuses such that one of the client apparatuses becomes a parent client apparatus and other client apparatus becomes a child client apparatus, the parent client apparatus having a right to enable the server apparatus to execute a specific process associated with the music composing work, the child client apparatus having no right to enable the server apparatus to execute the specific process associated with the music composing work.

Claim 40 (previously presented): The client apparatus according to claim 39, further comprising:

a save request transmitting section that directly transmits a save request to the server apparatus in response to an input of a save instruction by the operation section, so that the server apparatus converts the music data from the text format which is editable to the MIDI format which is performable; and

another data receiving section that directly receives the music data of the MIDI format from the server apparatus.

Claim 41 (currently amended): The client apparatus according to claim 39, ~~wherein the screen display section directly receives chat screen information from the server apparatus, and displays a chat screen according to the directly received chat screen information for use in chatting with other client apparatuses, the client apparatus~~ further comprising:

a chat information transmitting section that directly transmits conversation data and a chat update request to the server apparatus so that the server apparatus registers and updates the conversation data, the conversation data being generated according to ~~a data input~~ the message input to the chat screen by the operation section, the chat update request also being generated by input of a chat update instruction from the operation section;

a conversation data receiving section that directly receives the updated conversation data which is directly transmitted from the server apparatus in response to the chat updating request; and

another display control section that presents the updated conversation data in the chat screen displayed by the screen display section.

Claim 42 (new): The server apparatus according to claim 35, wherein the parent client apparatus has the right to enable the server apparatus to save the music data, and the child client apparatus has no right to enable the server apparatus to save the music data.

Claim 43 (new): The client apparatus according to claim 39, wherein the parent client apparatus has the right to enable the server apparatus to save the music data, and the child client apparatus has no right to enable the server apparatus to save the music data.